

L. M. ... 2/59
2 February



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1960

W. A L C O C K

M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

K. H. M A R S D E N

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, and Divisional Medical Officer for South West Hertfordshire:

W. Alcock, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Town Hall, Watford.

Telephone: WATFORD 26400

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer:

E.W.G. Birch, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Resigned
January, 1960.

H. Gough Thomas, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Commenced March, 1960.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

K.H. Marsden

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G.F. Willcox

District Public Health Inspectors:

E. Ellerington

J.L. Willoughby

T.B. Rosamond

D. Cahill - Commenced January, 1960

Chief Clerk Borough and Divisional Health Departments:

Miss J.E.M. Sherlock

Clerical Staff:

Miss M. Johnson

Miss M. James - Resigned July, 1960

Miss A. Finn

Miss A. Taylor - Commenced July, 1960

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Health Committee

1960 - 1961

Chairman:	Alderman G. A. Musk
Vice-Chairman:	Alderman H. Horwood
The Worshipful The Mayor:	Alderman E.H. Harrowell
The Deputy Mayor:	Alderman T.F. Harris

Alderman E.C. Amey	Councillor F. Mackenzie
Alderman L.C. Johnson	Councillor H.A.E. Mounter
Alderman Mrs. A. Primett	Councillor J.S. Oliver
Councillor T.D. Bathurst	Councillor J.R. Rourke
Councillor Mrs. E.I. Bruce	Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Carter	
Councillor J.P. Cook	
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins	
Councillor C.F.W. Johnson	

1959 - 1960

Chairman:	Alderman G. A. Musk
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor J. Seymour
The Worshipful The Mayor:	Alderman T.F. Harris
The Deputy Mayor:	Councillor R.W. Gamble

Alderman H. Horwood	Councillor F. Mackenzie
Alderman L.C. Johnson	Councillor H.A.E. Mounter
Alderman Mrs. A. Primett	Councillor J.S. Oliver
Councillor T.D. Bathurst	Councillor A.I. Robinson
Councillor Mrs. E.I. Bruce	Councillor J.R. Rourke
Councillor J.P. Cook	Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins	
Councillor C.F.W. Johnson	

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

25th September, 1961.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1960.

Principal Vital Statistics

In my Report for 1959 I commented on the remarkably low infantile mortality rate for that year. It was scarcely to be expected that such a low figure would be reached in 1960, and it was not. Even so, it will be seen that the rate is substantially lower than the national figure (15.2 as against 21.7) and lower than that for the County of Hertford (17.6). I have frequently drawn attention to this favourable situation in previous Annual Reports. Watford seems to be a very healthy starting point for the uncertain journey through life.

For the sixth consecutive year there were no maternal deaths.

Infectious Diseases

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was again low. For the fourteenth year in succession, no case of diphtheria has occurred in the Borough. Sporadic outbreaks of this disease, however, do occur and serve as a salutary reminder that it is still in our midst, ready to strike if the opportunity presents. It is incumbent upon us therefore to strive to maintain as high a level of immunity as possible through our immunisation campaign.

It is gratifying to report that for the first time since 1947, when the disease first assumed menacing proportions, no case of poliomyelitis was reported in the Borough. This is a triumph indeed for the success of our anti-polio vaccination campaign. At the end of the Report is a graph showing the remarkable decline which has occurred in the incidence of poliomyelitis since vaccination started in 1956.

The figures for notification of tuberculosis show a remarkable decrease. For the past ten years or more they have been in the region of 80 cases per annum. They dropped to 46 in 1960. In those ten years there has been a considerable reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis, largely by the use of the modern anti-tuberculosis drugs in treatment. One is encouraged to hope that the spectacular results achieved by treatment may soon be matched by the efforts of those who work patiently in the field of prevention, through contact tracing, re-housing of tuberculous families, Mantoux testing, vaccination with B.C.G. and other means. It may well be that B.C.G. vaccine is now playing an important part in the prevention of tuberculosis. It has been extensively used for the past ten years or so for the protection of tuberculosis contacts, nurses in training and medical students in whom formerly there was a high incidence of tuberculosis. In 1952 its use was extended to include all school children in their thirteenth year who were negative to a skin test - the Mantoux test. By now, a considerable number of adolescents must thus enjoy the protection which B.C.G. confers. The protective value of this vaccine is now beyond question.

Members may recall that some years ago Watford was selected as one of the areas in which the clinical trial of tuberculosis vaccines was carried out by the Medical Research Council. These trials were wound up in 1960. Over 50,000 children participated in this investigation, the most comprehensive of its kind ever to be held for the purpose of demonstrating the efficiency of tuberculosis vaccines. The trials showed that there was a reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis of over 80 per cent in the B.C.G. vaccinated group compared with the unvaccinated group. The protection so conferred has been shown to last for at least $6\frac{1}{2}$ years.

The incidence of measles was low during the year but there were rather more cases of whooping-cough than in recent years. The re-introduction of "triple vaccine", however, which gives simultaneous protection against diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus, will simplify the procedure of immunisation and it is hoped will lead to a higher protection rate against whooping-cough.

Health Education

Emphasis this year has been placed upon Home Safety and in the Report will be found an interesting account of the work of the Home Safety Committee during the year. As will be seen, efforts are being made to introduce Home Safety propaganda into the schools. I am sure this is a profitable field to explore and I look forward to seeking an extension of this activity.

Food Hygiene

The task of ensuring the safety of food supplies is an important aspect of the work of the Health Department and details are fully set out in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Few members of the general public are aware of the quiet, patient work

which is daily carried out (Sundays included) to see that foods reach the consumer in as wholesome a condition as possible. Despite these efforts, however, cases of food poisoning do occur and reference is made to an outbreak in which synthetic cream from a particular source was clearly implicated. The outbreak was quickly brought under control but unfortunately, as is so often the case, we never traced the infection to its primary source in spite of diligent search.

Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply

Fluoride salts have been continuously added to the Watford drinking water supplies since May 1956. We are one of three areas in the British Isles where trials of this procedure are being undertaken. Detailed dental examinations of children between the ages of 3 and 15 continue to be carried out each year and it is hoped that the results of these over a period of five years will be published towards the end of 1961 or early in 1962. Meanwhile, reports on water fluoridation continue to confirm the effectiveness of this procedure as a preventative of dental caries and its safety as a public health measure. Furthermore, as evidence of the practicability of this measure the plant has continued to demonstrate its remarkable ability to deliver the correct amount of fluoride salts into the supply.

Radio-active Substances

During the year the Radio-active Substances Act received Royal Assent. The atomic age in which we live has brought forth a wide range of new radio-active materials. Radio-active substances, for example radium, have been used in medicine for many years but recently their use has extended to industry on a large scale. Although in sealed containers, these materials might become highly dangerous in certain circumstances, for example in case of fire damage. The new Act, however, should go far to ensuring that as far as is practicable these materials should be used with strict regard to the health and safety of those who may be exposed to risk.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to my team of colleagues in the Health Department for the most efficient and conscientious service they have rendered throughout the year. I also desire to thank the members of the Council, especially the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their unfailing interest in the work of the Department and for the encouraging support which we receive from them from time to time.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

W. ALCOCK,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	5, 275
Estimated civilian population to mid-year 1960	74, 340
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	23, 194
Rateable value at 1. 4. 60	£1, 683, 263
Sum represented by a penny rate	£7, 075

Number of Live Births	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	559	602	1, 161
Illegitimate	32	39	71
	<u>591</u>	<u>641</u>	<u>1, 232</u>

Number of Still Births			
Legitimate	9	13	22
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>22</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still) 1, 254

Total number of Deaths 781

Causes of Death of Watford Residents:- 1960

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1959</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	6	5	1	3
Tuberculosis, other ...	1	1	-	-
Syphilitic disease ...	1	-	1	3
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough ...	-	-	-	-
Menigococcal Infections ...	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	1
Measles ...	-	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic disease	1	-	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	16	8	8	24
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	36	28	8	35
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	17	-	17	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	5	-	5	7
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	<u>51</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>93</u>
c/f...	134	70	64	179

				1960			
				Total	Male	Female	1959
		b/f...		134	70	64	179
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....			5	1	4	5
Diabetes	...	...		3	-	3	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system				135	44	91	113
Coronary disease, angina	...			140	82	58	128
Hypertension with heart disease	...			18	4	14	20
Other heart disease	...			87	31	56	91
Other circulatory disease	...			34	14	20	36
Influenza	...	...		2	1	1	13
Pneumonia	...	...		46	22	24	84
Bronchitis	...	...		50	34	16	55
Other diseases of respiratory system				6	5	1	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			5	4	1	9
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			3	1	2	8
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...			5	3	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...			3	3	-	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	...			8	5	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				62	23	39	59
Motor vehicle accidents	...			9	6	3	7
All other accidents	...			15	5	10	26
Suicide	...	...		10	6	4	10
Homicide and operations of war	...			1	1	-	2
				781	365	416	870

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)			
Legitimate	11	6	17
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>19</u>

<u>Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1959</u>	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Rates per 1,000 civilian population		
LIVE BIRTHS	16.6	17.1
STILL BIRTHS (per 1,000 total live and still births)	17.5	19.8
Death Rate		
All Causes	10.5	11.5
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.03	0.02
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.62	0.55
Tuberculosis	0.09	0.07
Malignant Neoplasms, Lung, Bronchus	0.48	0.48
Coronary Disease Angina Pectoris	1.88	2.01
Maternal Mortality Rate - There were no maternal deaths. (per 1,000 total births)		
All puerperal Causes	0.00	0.3 Provis.
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year)		
ALL INFANTS per 1,000 live births	15.2	21.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	14.3	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	28.2	
NEONATAL MORTALITY (deaths of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	8.1	15.6
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths during first week per 1,000 live births)	6.5	

Perinatal Mortality Rate

(Still births plus deaths during first week per 1,000 total live and still births).

23. 8

32.9

PERCENTAGE OF ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

5. 8

5.4

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England</u>
	<u>1960</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>and</u>
		<u>Wales</u>		<u>Wales</u>
		<u>1960</u>		<u>1959</u>
Birth Rate (Live Births)	16.6	17.1	15.7	16.5
Death Rate	10.5	11.5	11.8	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	15.2	21.9	7.8	22.2
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.38

REGISTERED PREMATURE INFANTS - CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
BIRTH WEIGHT

	<u>2lbs & under</u>	<u>2-3 lbs</u>	<u>3-4 lbs</u>	<u>4-5 lbs</u>	<u>5-5½lbs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number	2	2	9	28	22	63
Number surviving after 24 hours	1	2	9	27	22	61
Number surviving after 8 days	-	1	8	26	22	57
Number surviving at 4 weeks	-	1	8	26	22	57

Prematurity rate of 5.1% ~ 6.1% 1959

- 4.0% 1958

- 6.7% 1957

- 4.6% 1956

- 6.3% 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Prematurity	5	6	3	4	2	3	5	4	3	3
Malformation	3	6	5	6	5	5	7	5	1	6
Birth injuries	4	2	4	-	3	-	3	2	2	3
Collapse of lung	2	3	6	4	1	2	6	3	-	2
Respiratory diseases	1	4	6	2	1	4	4	2	-	4
Other diseases of infancy	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	-
Infectious disease	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	1
Accidents	2	3	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Not traced	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	19	26	25	19	14	15	29	20	9	19

Of the 19 infant deaths occurring in 1960, 5 died within 24 hours of birth, 4 more died during the first week, 5 more died during the first 3 months and 5 died between the ages of 4 - 12 months.

The neo-natal death rate was therefore 8.1 compared with 5.2 in 1959

Sex of Infants

The sex ratio of 922 boys to every 1,000 girl infants is much lower than last year.

Illegitimate Births (per 1,000 total births)

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	67	66
1947	52	58
1948	51	52
1949	50	56
1950	51	36
1951	51	49
1952	46	49
1953	46	43
1954	46	56
1955	45	56

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1956	46	52
1957	46	37
1958	49	59
1959	51	54
1960	54	58

Health Education

Despite the increased publicity given to all matters concerning safety in the home, accident and fatality rates resulting from home accidents are increasing. The death rate from home accidents now constitutes approximately 1.4 per cent of all causes of death. In 1950, the total number of deaths in Great Britain resulting from home accidents was 6,050. In 1959, this figure had risen by 2,046 to a total of 8,096.

The seriousness of the problem clearly constitutes a challenge to all those concerned with the education and health of the public. Home Safety Propaganda must now be regarded as a specialised aspect of preventive medicine, whereby the increasing number of fatal accidents and grave injuries can be greatly reduced.

The methods used to spread Home Safety Propaganda need constant revision and preparation in order to stimulate public interest. The Members of the Watford Home Safety Committee's Speakers Panel have given many talks to local voluntary organisations, during which they have shown film strips and colour transparencies.

In order to increase the number of colour film transparencies in their library, the Home Safety Committee held a photographic competition with prizes offered for the best colour film transparencies depicting ways of preventing home accidents. The Members of the Committee have also made several colour film transparencies themselves.

Throughout the year the local press has given support to the activities of the Watford Home Safety Committee. These activities have included the annual Home Safety Exhibition held during the Whitsun Carnival Celebrations and the Home Safety Committee's participation in the National Home Safety Campaign.

During the Carnival, a Home Safety Crossword Competition was held and prizes were awarded. Leaflets were distributed from the Exhibition Stand which displayed all types of Home Safety Propaganda.

The National Home Safety Campaign had for its theme - "Lock away the dangers in your home." The Home Safety Committee distributed posters to all the local General Practitioners and sent posters with a circular letter to chemists, ironmongers and grocers, drawing attention to the potential dangers which exist through leaving medicines, cleansers and weed killers etc., in unlabelled containers and in places where they are

accessible to children.

Posters and circular letters were also sent to the Heads of schools early in November, drawing attention to the serious injuries and damage which may result from the misuse of fireworks and the dangers of leaving bonfires unattended.

Preliminary discussions have shown that there is scope for extending the activities of the Home Safety Committee by introducing Home Safety Propaganda into schools. Most Head Teachers appear to welcome the idea but have pointed out that the school curriculum is already very full.

A start has been made in this direction. Members of the Home Safety Committee have been asked to advise certain schools on the work to be undertaken by school-children taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. In the Scheme a knowledge of Home Safety forms a part of the syllabus.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Home Safety Committee for their continued efforts and the enthusiasm that they have shown throughout the year.

Laboratory Services

Provision is available for investigation of all outbreaks of infectious disease and as will be seen from the Chief Public Health Inspector's report help was willingly given when it was necessary to investigate small outbreaks of food poisoning.

National Assistance Act - Section 47 (Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention).

Several cases were investigated during the year, but in all cases it was possible to arrange for suitable care without recourse to the compulsory provisions of the above Act.

Section 50 (Burials)

Arrangements were made on one occasion in 1960.

Birth and Mortality Rates

Below are set out the birth rates and principal mortality rates from 1939. The infant mortality rate is expressed as per 1,000 registered live-births. The maternal mortality rate is expressed as per 1,000 live and still-births registered during the year under review. The remaining rates are per 1,000 of population.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Tuberculosis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate
1939	15.3	10.7	36.1	0.00	0.57	1.88
1940	15.1	11.7	44.3	5.90	0.59	1.35
1941	13.8	10.9	55.06	0.90	0.58	1.62
1942	17.4	10.9	28.4	1.50	0.56	1.75
1943	16.5	12.4	40.0	1.74	0.32	1.75
1944	19.7	14.8	32.0	3.69	0.50	1.59
1945	17.4	11.6	28.2	0.84	0.58	2.04
1946	18.6	10.1	23.3	1.51	0.36	1.68
1947	19.6	10.8	28.6	0.69	0.23	1.94
1948	15.7	10.3	24.2	0.00	0.37	1.81
1949	14.7	10.8	18.5	0.00	0.36	2.06
1950	13.9	10.8	23.1	0.00	0.24	1.61
1951	14.0	11.4	18.7	0.00	0.22	1.66
1952	14.1	11.1	25.2	0.00	0.15	1.98
1953	13.3	11.9	25.9	3.05	0.17	1.90
1954	14.0	10.5	18.7	2.89	0.05	1.94
1955	14.4	11.5	13.4	0.00	0.10	2.06
1956	14.9	11.1	13.9	0.00	0.22	2.01
1957	14.8	11.0	26.9	0.00	0.11	2.40
1958	14.8	12.1	18.4	0.00	0.03	2.56
1959	15.7	11.8	7.8	0.00	0.04	2.37
1960	16.6	10.5	15.2	0.00	0.09	1.75

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1960 (Corrected)

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Over 65	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	2	7	23	9	1	-	-	-	-	42
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	6
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	7
Jaundice	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	1	-	7
Whooping Cough	12	25	23	34	9	2	6	-	-	-	111
Measles	17	147	172	330	6	2	1	-	-	-	675
Food Poisoning	2	5	5	8	4	5	3	4	5	3	44
Dysentery	1	3	3	5	1	1	4	3	2	-	23
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Post Infections	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
	32	182	211	403	31	19	16	7	13	7	921

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION - 1960

(South-West Herts.)

	At Clinics		By Private Doctors		Total
	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	
<u>Diphtheria Immunization -</u>					
Primary	833	217	97	22	1,169
Booster	212	1,524	24	92	1,852
	1,045	1,741	121	114	3,021
<u>Whooping Cough Immunization</u>					
Primary	855	7	68	-	930
Booster	1	7	-	-	8
	856	14	68	-	938
<u>Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus Immunization</u>					
Primary	848	13	985	16	1,862
Booster	4	6	40	124	174
	852	19	1,025	140	2,036
<u>Smallpox Vaccination</u>					
Primary	1,106	10	860	161	2,137
Re-Vaccinations	2	24	20	426	472
	1,108	34	880	587	2,609

ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

(South West Herts.)

	At Clinics			By Private Doctors			Total
	To 31.12.59	1960	Total	To 31.12.59	1960	Total	
<u>Two Injections Given</u>							
Children born in years 1943-1960	27,025	1,432	28,457	9,756	1,660	11,416	39,873
Young Persons born in years 1933-1942	6,021	358	6,379	4,659	813	5,472	11,851
Persons born be- fore 1933 who have not passed their 40th birthday	-	2,943	2,943	-	4,339	4,339	7,282
Expectant Mothers to 31.12.59	1,053	-	1,053	939	-	939	1,992
Special Groups and Others	31	3	34	396	21	417	451
Total	34,130	4,736	38,866	15,750	6,833	22,583	61,449
Number of persons given three injections (All Groups)	24,111	8,830	32,941	6,435	9,893	16,328	49,269

Smallpox

No smallpox contacts were investigated.

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	5	1	1	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	1	2	2	1	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	23	14	5	4	5	1	1	-

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1920 - 1960

NEW CASES						DEATHS			
Year	Population	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop.
1960	74,340	37	9	46	0.62	6	1	7	0.09
1959	73,780	75	5	80	1.08	3	-	3	0.04
1958	73,350	72	8	80	1.09	2	-	2	0.03
1957	73,050	92	6	98	1.34	8	-	8	0.10
1956	72,520	54	6	60	0.83	13	3	16	0.22
1955	72,420	74	7	81	1.12	6	1	7	0.10
1954	72,490	77	5	82	1.13	4	-	4	0.05
1953	72,610	79	2	81	1.12	12	-	12	0.17
1952	73,200	73	11	84	1.15	9	2	11	0.15
1951	72,700	97	9	106	1.46	14	2	16	0.22
1950	74,380	66	12	78	1.05	16	2	18	0.24
1945	67,070	88	12	100	1.49	34	5	39	0.58
1940	67,430	52	4	56	0.83	37	1	38	0.59
1935	63,200	91	20	111	1.76	39	5	44	0.70
1930	55,870	116	11	127	2.27	44	-	44	0.79
1925	48,990	93	23	116	2.37	51	4	55	1.12
1920	48,027	124	19	143	2.98	40	8	48	1.00

Report of the Water Supply

Mr. J.R. Collins, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information:-

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year.
2. 1,110 million gallons were supplied during the year, averaging 3.03 million gallons per day, and the supply on the maximum day (5th June 1960) rose to 4.3 million gallons.
3. The population supplied was approximately 71,900 and the average consumption for domestic, trade and industrial purposes was approximately 42 gallons per head per day. 269 new water supplies were connected during the year.
4. The whole of the water supplied was softened to approximately 155 ppm.
5. Fluoridation was continued at both pumping stations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The fluoride content of the supply was tested eight times per day, and these tests confirmed that the treatment was maintained at the correct level of 1 ppm.
6. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination was carried out on the supplies from both pumping stations. Chlorine residual tests were taken at hourly intervals at each plant, at 4-hourly intervals on the high level reservoir supplies, and twice daily on the low level reservoir supply.
7. 150 Bacteriological and 8 chemical analyses were made on the water at various points in the system, and showed a consistently high standard. There is no plumbo-solvency.
8. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings revealed the following situation:-

106 Leavesden High Road.

Caravan dwellers have standpipe supply (population 7).

Rear of 82 Leavesden High Road.

Caravan dweller has standpipe supply (population 1).

275 Sheepcot Lane.

Caravan dwellers have two standpipe supplies and two W.C.'s (population 24).

9. There was one permanent dwelling within the area of supply without a main water supply piped into the premises. This was Waterdale Farm Cottage where a family of 2 use an outside standpipe.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING

1. CLEARANCE OF "SLUM" HOUSES

Objections were made by the owners of 10 of the 25 houses in the Albert Street/ Carey Place clearance area to the making of the Compulsory Purchase Order, but 8 of these were withdrawn before the Public Enquiry was held in January.

The Order was confirmed on 16th June, 1960, with 3 minor amendments and the Minister ordered well maintained payments in respect of all the houses.

The Council declared the three houses Nos. 69, 71 and 73 Sotheron Road to be a clearance area and in November resolved to deal with this area by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order.

During the year the Council made closing orders on the following unfit dwellings:-

No. 66 Fearnley Street
Nos. 46, 50, 54 and 56 Upper Paddock Road
Basement of No. 64 Chalk Hill.

The owner of No. 219A High Street gave an undertaking not to re-let the house when the tenant was rehoused.

The considerable increase in the vacant possession value of houses in Watford has stimulated the owners of houses which have been closed to repair and improve them. The closing orders on two such houses: 11 Upper Paddock Road and 15 Aldenham Road, were determined by the Council following reconditioning and improvement.

One house was re-let for human habitation without reconditioning and in contravention of the Closing Order. Legal proceedings were instituted and the owner was fined £5.

The following unfit houses were demolished during 1960:-

Nos. 9 and 11, Hempstead Road
Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 St. Johns Road
Nos. 21, 23, 25 and 27 Loates Lane
Nos. 5 and 6 Forge Cottages, Leavesden.

With the completion of the "slum clearance" programme now well in hand very few dilapidated houses are left in the Borough calling for demolition proceedings.

2. REPAIR OF UNFIT HOUSES

There has been a reduction in the number of complaints concerning housing defects. This is undoubtedly due to the Rent Act, 1957 which gives financial encouragement to owners to repair their houses. Even where owners have failed to take advantage of the Rent Act tenants are reluctant to complain about disrepairs because the outcome in the case of controlled houses would probably be an increase in rent; or in the case of decontrolled houses a notice to quit.

With fewer houses being inspected as the result of complaints we have been able to resume "house to house" inspections during the year but the number of houses that can be dealt with in this way is restricted by the severe shortage of building labour in the town.

Of the 114 houses which were made fit for human habitation 77 were dealt with informally by the Public Health Inspectors. Statutory action under the Public Health and Housing Acts resulted in the repair of 37 houses; the works on 6 of these being carried out by the Council in default of the owners.

The owner of one house appealed against a notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957, but withdrew this appeal before the date of hearing.

3. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer. 79 Discretionary Grants and 74 Standard Grants were authorised during the year ended 31st December, 1960; this shows a noteworthy increase over the previous year when 65 Discretionary and 25 Standard Grants were authorised.

It is unfortunate that the owners of rented houses are not taking advantage of this valuable scheme; only 8 of the 153 grants (4 Discretionary and 4 Standard) are in respect of rented houses.

4. RENT ACT, 1957

Only 3 applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year compared with 14 during 1959 and 80 during 1958. The extent to which the provisions of the Rent Act are used by tenants to enforce repairs is not known but the available evidence indicates that they are now rarely used.

Altogether, since the Act came into force in September, 1957, 170 applications have been made for certificates of disrepair; 50 certificates have been issued where the landlord has not given an undertaking to carry out repairs and 21 of these certificates have been cancelled.

5. OVERCROWDING AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

Watford is a prosperous town, attractive to persons seeking employment. The demand for houses far exceeds the supply and this has encouraged the sub-letting of rooms to families, at high rents, and the conversion of dwellings into lodging houses. Situated in what were once good class residential areas, most of these houses, although large and substantially built, are not equipped for multiple occupation and all too often they are severely overcrowded.

The Council are concerned to see the creation of new slum conditions and are trying to control this development by using the various powers under the Housing, Public Health and Town Planning Acts and the Food Hygiene Regulations where applicable; but stronger legislation is required.

During the year the Council have considered 10 such houses - 4 being occupied by more than 2 families and 5 as lodging houses.

Two landlords were convicted of causing overcrowding, the maximum fine of £5 with costs being imposed in each case.

Overcrowding in lodging houses is being dealt with by action under Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1957 and, where meals are provided, the Food Hygiene Regulations are enforced. Where there is inadequate means of escape in case of fire from rooms more than 20 ft. above ground level, action is taken under Section 60 of the Public Health Act, which usually results in the rooms ceasing to be used. Six notices have been served under Section 90 of the Housing Act during the year, the effect of which has been a considerable reduction in the number of lodgers accommodated in the houses.

The occupier of one lodging house was convicted for the offence under the Food Hygiene Regulations of using a food room for sleeping purposes and was fined £5.

Four notices have been served under Section 36 of the Housing Act, 1957, on the owner of houses occupied by more than one family requiring the provision of additional toilet and cooking facilities or reduction of the number of occupants of the houses.

6. CARAVANS

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 which came into force on the 29th August, provides a long awaited strengthening of the law to enforce reasonable public health requirements on caravan sites. The occupiers of all such sites must now obtain Town Planning approval and a licence which is issued subject to conditions imposed by the Council.

For many years the Council have spared no effort to control the haphazard placing of caravans on land within the Borough and when the new Act came into force there were

no more than 37 residential caravans on 11 sites to be considered. Two of these also are used by travelling showmen and there is one other site which is used only by travelling showmen and which is exempt from the provisions of the Act.

FOOD

7. FOOD HYGIENE

The new Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 came into force on 1st October. They amend and consolidate earlier regulations but apart from bringing within their scope the handling and service of food on board home-going ships and certain other vessels, such changes as are made in the law are not particularly significant.

It is regrettable that the Legislature have not seen fit to amend the law requiring food to be protected from contamination (on which I commented in my 1957 Report) and it is still necessary to prove actual risk to public health before protection of food can be enforced even against gross contamination.

Whilst hard frozen packed offals need no longer be carried in receptacles when in meat transport vehicles, other offals must be carried in covered receptacles even though the vehicle itself must also be covered or closed. This provision contrasts sharply with the lack of any specific requirement to enclose open-fronted shops selling open food or to cover food on stalls.

Routine inspections of all food premises have been maintained and special attention has been paid to delivery vehicles and stalls following a report to the Council of a complaint of delivery of a dirty loaf. In the few contraventions found the health inspectors warned the offenders.

A lodging house keeper was convicted under the Regulations and fined £5 for sleeping in the kitchen in which she prepared the lodgers' meals. The Council has authorised legal proceedings in connection with a cafe where both the structure and equipment were found to be dirty and against a fishmonger who smoked while handling unwrapped fish.

8. FOOD INSPECTION

(i) Meat

All food animals slaughtered at the two slaughterhouses in the Borough are inspected and to achieve this it has been necessary for the inspectors to work overtime and on Sundays. Advantage was taken of the Exchequer Grant made available by the Government in respect of the inspection of meat assumed to be in excess of that required for local consumption.

Enquiries in connection with foot and mouth disease (see "Diseases of Animals Acts" below) revealed that animals were being kept in the slaughterhouse lairage for periods up to nearly three weeks and the Medical Officer of Health drew the attention of the Council to the danger of spread of infection in these circumstances. The Town Clerk was instructed to make representations to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the keeping of livestock in slaughterhouse lairs be limited as to time by legislation and to seek the support of the Association of Municipal Corporations and the local Member of Parliament. The Ministry subsequently replied that there was insufficient evidence of actual risk to human beings to justify regulations and that the present time was in any case inappropriate for their introduction since slaughterhouse proprietors were busy bringing their premises up to the standard required by recent regulations. For the same reasons the Association of Municipal Corporations declined to make representations to the Ministry.

While the Ministry's scheme for eradication of tuberculosis may be expected to make the appearance of the disease in the slaughterhouse increasingly rare, reactors to the tuberculin test are at present being sent for slaughter and the veterinary officers have in most cases examined the carcasses after slaughter. For their part, the meat inspectors notify the Ministry's Divisional Veterinary Officer of any home-bred bovine which is found on post-mortem inspection to have tuberculous lesions. This procedure apparently brought to light the presence of tuberculosis in at least one herd which was believed to be free from the disease and the possibility of the passing off of untested cattle in the market cannot be ruled out.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations 1960 came into force on November 1st. These regulations make provision for dealing with meat rejected as unfit for human consumption in slaughterhouses, or despatched from knackers yards, in such a way as to prevent risk to public health. Arrangements in accordance with the regulations have been made in regard to such meat removed from the Watford slaughterhouses.

Statistics relating to meat inspection in the slaughterhouses will be found in the Appendix.

Cysticercus bovis

153 cases of *Cysticercus bovis* were discovered in the 5,502 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1960. This gives an incidence rate of 2.6% compared with 2.9% in 1958 and 1959.

All the infections were very light and distribution of the cysts in the affected animals is shown in the table. Carcasses showing infections which might be transmissible to man were retained at a temperature not exceeding 20° F for three weeks.

	Head	Heart	Skirt	Other
Viable Cysts	34	9	1	-
Degenerate Cysts	73	62	8	-

The cysts in 37 cases (24.2%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. This compares with 25.8% for 1959.

Slaughterhouse Policy

The Council made the Statutory Report on Slaughterhouse Facilities, as required by the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959, on October 20th. The Report sets out the position envisaged in my last Annual Report, i.e. that the smaller of the two existing slaughterhouses would be modernised and that use of the larger one would be discontinued. The operators of the larger slaughterhouse have applied for a licence to construct a new slaughterhouse on land which the Council proposes to sell to them; the Council at the same time acquiring and redeveloping the site of the old slaughterhouse. The Council have recommended in the Report that the construction regulations should apply in Watford from 1st June, 1962.

Slaughter of Animals Acts

A licence to slaughter all classes of animals was issued to the local R.S.P.C.A. inspector and seventeen other persons were licensed to slaughter all classes of animals except horses. One of the licences restricted the holder to slaughtering only under supervision of an experienced slaughterman. No infringements of the legislation have been reported.

Diseases of Animals Acts

In January Mr. Ellerington, District Public Health Inspector, who was carrying out meat inspection at Devis's Slaughterhouse, New Street, found a number of cattle showing evidence of foot and mouth disease. The police were immediately notified of the disease and the Slaughterhouse Manager advised on the precautions to be taken until such time as the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food took control. All animals dead and alive on the slaughterhouse premises were condemned by the Veterinary Officer (99 bodies of beef, 308 pigs, 55 sheep and 9 calves - approximately 52 tons). The Medical Officer of Health advised that burial of the infected meat might involve risk to the water supply, which is drawn from deep wells, and the carcasses were therefore disposed of by burning on land owned by the Council in Tolpits Lane.

Twenty-five cases of suspected swine fever were notified to the Police who in turn notified the Local Licensing Officer, County Hall, Hertford, who has been the authorised officer under the Acts since July 1st, 1959. The carcasses were destroyed and the premises disinfected in accordance with the statutory provisions.

(ii) Milk

Close supervision has been maintained on the quality of milk sold and processed within the Borough. Ninety-two samples of heat-treated milk and two of raw milk were examined by the Public Health Laboratory and found to be satisfactory. There are now 7 milk vending machines in Watford - samples taken from these have been satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order 1953 prescribes that all milk sold in the Borough shall be of a special designation. Details of dairies and distributors of milk registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 and of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-1954 are given in the Appendix. From January 1st, 1961 such licences will be granted in accordance with the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960. This means that all dairies, or distributors having premises from which milk is distributed within the Borough must be registered by the Borough as the local authority and also licensed by the Borough as the food and drugs authority. Formerly the Borough both registered and licensed as the local authority. Since the 1959 and 1960 regulations followed so closely one upon the other these requirements of registration and licensing might well have been looked at afresh to avoid needless duplication. No purpose at all appears to be served by registering or licensing retailers who sell pre-packed milk in containers as received by them.

(iii) Ice Cream

Although five premises are registered for its manufacture, only four of them were used for making ice-cream during 1960. Satisfactory standards of hygiene were maintained and these were reflected in the results of 35 samples submitted for bacteriological examination. Two samples of ice-cream manufactured outside the Borough were also satisfactory. The test (methylene blue reduction) used for ice-cream was also used to demonstrate to one vendor the gross contamination of the water in which he kept his servers and he has since used a sterilising agent.

Six samples submitted to the Public Analyst satisfied the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations 1959 but one did not comply with the Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations 1959 in that the presence of non-milk fat was not declared. The Council instructed that a warning letter be sent and a further report made on the labelling of the products of the firm concerned.

(iv) Unsound food

Complaints were received from members of the public of foodstuffs being mouldy; decomposed; containing foreign matter (including insects and a worm); or being sold in unsatisfactory containers. Eighteen of these complaints were reported to the Council, including the formal seizure by a health inspector of decomposed meat sent to a school. Legal proceedings were authorised in nine cases (see appendix, table XII); warning letters were sent in six cases and the Council took no action in regard to the remainder. Twenty-five other complaints were dealt with informally.

In a case taken to Court in a previous year and again this year (when proceedings were taken for the sale of unsound deep-frozen "fish bites"), the retailer who was prosecuted under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, took advantage of the Warranty Defence available to him under Section 115 and was acquitted. In the absence of a High Court decision, there are varying opinions whether any other person in the chain of distribution (e.g. wholesaler or manufacturer) can thereafter be prosecuted under sections 2 and 113 for the same offence, and in this particular instance the evidence would have been insufficient for a prosecution under section 116 (offences in relation to warranties, etc.).

A second difficulty is that a defendant, in addition to pleading a Warranty, may (under Section 113) allege that the offence was the fault of some other person and may bring that person before the Court. The Act provides that this second person may be convicted of the offence. If, however, the Warranty has been pleaded successfully, it has up to now been considered that this removes the peril of conviction from the second person, since it depended on the original summons to which the Warranty was a complete answer. It is thus possible to prove that there is a sale of unsatisfactory food, but no conviction can be obtained.

The Public Health Committee has advised the Council that if and when another case of this kind is taken to the Magistrates' Court and a Warranty Defence is successful, the Corporation shall consider appealing to the High Court by way of case stated to secure a clarification of the law.

9. FOOD POISONING

During the year forty-four cases of food poisoning were notified; sixteen of these were single cases; two were family outbreaks involving six persons; and the remaining twenty-two cases were involved in one outbreak which occurred towards the end of the year. It was not possible to find a common source of infection between any of the single and family outbreaks. In the twenty-two cases which occurred at thirteen households there was one common factor - they had all eaten cream cakes or cream doughnuts which had been made in a local bakehouse and it appeared that one batch of cream had been infected.

A detailed investigation was made at the bakehouse in an endeavour to find the source of infection of the cream. Various cake and cream ingredients and faecal specimens from all persons employed in the bakehouse were submitted to bacteriological examination but all were found to be negative. Altogether in this outbreak over 150 specimens (including sewer swabs) were examined at the Public Health Laboratory and we are deeply indebted to the staff of the Laboratory for the work they carried out which extended over the Christmas holiday period. Fortunately in no case was the illness very severe.

The responsible organism in thirty of the forty-four cases was *Salmonella typhimurium*. A summary of the cases will be found in Table XIII in the Appendix.

The department has continued during the year to assist the Central Public Health laboratory in their researches into various aspects of food poisoning, by the submission of specimens of meat, animal faeces and sewer swabs from the slaughterhouse. Samples of coconut from bakehouses and warehouses have also been submitted to the local laboratory, since this material is now known to be a vehicle for food poisoning organisms, but all these samples gave negative results.

10. MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS, 1887 AND 1926

As a Food and Drugs authority, the Council is charged with the enforcement of these Acts so far as they relate to foodstuffs. No offences were reported to the Council during the year.

11. COMPOSITION OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The report of the Public Analyst, Mr. C.W. McHugo, on the samples submitted for examination during the year 1960 is as follows:-

(i) Routine Samples

37 formal milk samples
2 formal sausage samples
1 formal ice cream sample
101 informal samples, comprising

(a) Foods

Sausages and other meat products
Ice cream, soft drinks and sweets
Flour and cereal foods
Preserves and canned foods, dried fruits
Coffee, cheese and ginger wine

(b) Drugs

Mist. bismuth and sodium bicarbonate

Mist. bromid. aramat

Saccharin

Aspirin

With the exception of the sausage samples referred to below and a sample of self-raising flour which was deficient in carbon dioxide, the food products were satisfactory. There was, however, a labelling offence in connection with the sale of ice cream, as mentioned elsewhere in this report. The samples of drugs complied with the British Pharmacopoeia.

Informal samples from two butchers who make their own pork sausages had meat contents, respectively, of 50% and 39%. Subsequent samples from the same butchers had meat contents of 61% and 54%. Although low in meat, the analyst accepted the latter as satisfactory in the absence of a statutory standard.

(ii) Special Samples

Samples of liver salts, butter, caster sugar and stout which were the subject of complaint were found to be quite normal.

Two tablets found in butter proved to be vitamin C tablets. Some powdered grass was found in bottled milk. Rhubarb was found to have stripped the lacquer from the inside of a can and to contain 240 parts per million of tin.

Foreign matter on a white loaf proved to be dirt picked up subsequent to the baking.

Excessive sodium bicarbonate was found in a sample of flour. This had caused an unusually dark colour in cakes made from it and a burning sensation when they were eaten.

Mould growth was found on a ginger cake, which otherwise appeared to be quite fresh, and in a can of mandarin oranges.

Dirt and glass were found in a sample of rice (see table XII).

A worm alleged to have been found in a can of peas was submitted to a phosphate test as an indication as to whether it had been cooked "(see Table XII)".

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

12. INDUSTRIAL SMOKE

Only two boiler plants have caused serious smoke nuisances during the year and both of these are modern installations at the Peace Memorial and Shrodells Hospitals. The boilers at the Peace Memorial Hospital are coal-fired and the causes of the excessive smoke emission were discussed in October by representatives of the Hospital Management Committee and the Hospital Regional Engineer, Technical Advisory Officers and representatives of the Council. It was established that the smoke was emitted when the demand on the boiler plant was very low, and modifications to the plant were agreed. The boilers at Shrodells Hospital are oil-fired and are provided with a brick chimney stack. The nuisance from this plant was due to the emission of smuts, and investigation was made by Engineers of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research who formed the opinion that the cause was the chilling of flue gases chiefly by reason of in-leaks of cold air and heat loss through a section of unlagged metal flue.

The nuisance caused by grit and fumes from the Watford Gas Works has been kept under observation by the Alkali Inspector. The measures taken by the Gas Board have been effective in lessening the nuisance, but the Gas Works is situate in a built-up area and it must be recognised that it is exceedingly difficult to operate the plant without occasionally causing some nuisance.

Prior Approval of New Furnaces

Whenever a new boiler plant is to be installed the Council advise the factory management of the prior approval provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956. Fifteen applications for prior approval for new furnaces were made during 1960; all were granted after compliance with the Council's requirements.

Height of New Chimneys

The Council required the Architects to increase the height of six chimneys when plans were submitted during the year. It is often difficult to reconcile the Architects' desire for a chimney that cannot be seen and the Council's requirement that it must be high enough to disperse fumes without causing a nuisance.

13. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RESEARCH

In co-operation with the Bushey U.D.C. one lead peroxide gauge is operated in Watford to estimate the concentration of sulphur acids in the atmosphere. In December the Council were invited by the Atmospheric Pollution Division of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research to co-operate in the new National Survey of Air Pollution.

14. SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

The Council's outline proposals for the establishment of two smoke control areas in Watford were given provisional clearance by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in December 1957. Both these areas are predominantly modern Estates on the south west and north east of the Borough. The Council were not satisfied that there was a reasonable choice of solid smokeless fuels and they were reluctant to make smoke control areas. During the summer of 1960 the Eastern Gas Board opened a new carbonising plant in St. Albans and the Council received an assurance that there would be an adequate supply of premium coke from this plant. In December, therefore, the Council gave approval in principle to the declaration of smoke control areas on the Holywell and Meriden Estates.

MISCELLANEOUS

15. FACTORIES

There is close co-operation with the Borough Engineer on all plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Council for approval. This procedure ensures that the premises will comply with the various legislative requirements before structural work commences.

The items which have concerned the Health Department during the year are the lay-out and equipment of works canteens, sanitary accommodation; means of escape in case of fire; the prior approval of boiler plant, height of chimneys and the prevention of atmospheric pollution and other nuisances; and the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part I. Health Provisions

Certain health provisions of the Act are enforced by the Council; a summary of the work carried out during 1960 will be found in tabular form in the Appendix.

Part II. Safety. Section 34 - Means of Escape in Case of Fire

The Chief Public Health Inspector has been the Council's authorised officer for this work since 1940. Section 9 of the Factories Act, 1959 provides for the transfer of these functions to the fire authority, which is the Hertfordshire County Council, and this Section came into operation on the 1st December, 1960. All the Council's records were handed to the County Fire Protection Officer before the end of the year.

During 1960 nineteen factories were surveyed and as a result seventeen certificates as to adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued. There are very few

factories in Watford which do not have an up-to-date certificate.

Part IV - Special Provisions - Section 54 - Underground Bakehouses

There is only one underground bakehouse in Watford at 24 Langley Road, and the Council has continued to renew the certificate of suitability.

Part VIII - Section 110 - Home Work

The nature of the work undertaken by the 112 outworkers within the Borough is set out in Table XIV.

16. SHOPS ACT 1950

The public health inspectors are appointed by the Council as Shops Act inspectors and much of this work can conveniently be carried out when inspections of shop premises are made for other purposes.

Inspections are made after normal closing hours and on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons to detect illegal trading. I have commented in previous reports on the difficulties of enforcing the closing hour provisions of the Act when so many shop-keepers can quite properly sell such a wide variety of goods on Sundays and on the half-day closing day. They and their customers can see little logic in prohibiting the sale of other goods.

During the year the Council gave consideration to a report on the opening of car display premises on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons. It was found that at 44 such premises, only 27 were selling motor supplies and accessories and could legally remain open. All the motor traders were notified of the requirements of the Shops Act. On a subsequent survey one car display site was found to be open for the serving of customers on a Sunday and the Council authorised legal proceedings for this offence.

Towards the end of the year the majority of the motor traders in the town requested the Council to make an order exempting their premises from the half-day closing provisions of the Act. (The Council made the order in January, 1961).

17. SCHOOLS

In 1958 a survey was made of the sanitary, toilet and canteen facilities for pupils and staffs at all the schools in Watford. Many unsatisfactory conditions were found and these were discussed with the Divisional Education Officer, when a list of priority works was prepared.

A further survey was made during the Summer of 1960; most of the defects which could be remedied inexpensively had been dealt with, but there was a delay in implementing the major improvement schemes. The Council expressed their concern at the lack of proper sanitary facilities at many of the schools in the Borough and urged the County Council as the Education Authority to expedite improvements. The County Council stated that the improvements they could carry out were limited by the amount of money available and that for several years the priority demand had been the provision of accommodation for additional children. Since the Minister of Education had been unable to approve all the large scale building programmes, the County Council had been obliged to fill the gaps from any improvement funds available.

Major improvements were made at one old school during the year and plans have been prepared for the replacement of 3 old schools and the substantial improvement of 4 others by 1965.

It is regrettable that money ear-marked for urgent improvement works has had to be used for even more urgent new buildings. This unsatisfactory state of affairs should receive the earnest consideration of the Minister of Education.

18. SWIMMING BATHS

There is one enclosed heated public swimming bath in Watford and this serves a very wide area. The water capacity is 140,000 gallons and the filtration plant has a maximum of a 4 hour turnover rate. The water is sterilised by break-point chlorination. Samples of the water are taken at fortnightly intervals for bacteriological examination and occasionally for chemical examination. With the exception of one sample of water from the foot-bath, all the results were satisfactory. An investigation is being made into the most suitable and effective method of maintaining the water in the foot-bath in a pure condition.

Four schools in Watford have swimming baths. Those at the Boys' & Girls' Grammar Schools are equipped with filtration and chlorination plants and they are inspected by the County Health Department. Samples were collected at fortnightly intervals throughout the Summer for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory.

The swimming bath at one private school is equipped with filtration and chlorination plant and all the samples for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

At another private school the bath is emptied and re-filled from the public mains at frequent intervals and is dosed with a hypochlorite sterilising agent. In the early Summer months the water was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition and the Principal was advised on the rate of dosing. 12 samples were taken over a period of 3 weeks when the dosing rate necessary to keep the water in a satisfactory bacteriological condition was established.

19. PETROLEUM(REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as the authorised officer for the purposes of these Acts.

151 premises are licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures. Altogether the total quantity which is licensed to be stored within the Borough is 627,220 gallons. Not less than one-third of this quantity comprises highly inflammable spirit solvents which are not petroleum mixtures within the meaning of the Act. These are stored and used in 6 large printing and printing ink factories in Watford and they are so intermingled with petroleum mixtures as defined that by agreement with the Factory Managers they are included on the licences and stored in accordance with the Council's conditions.

A Working Party on Inflammable Substances was set up by the Home Office in 1959 to consider, inter alia, if the hazards of storing inflammable substances are so serious as to require the introduction of measures of control. It is to be hoped that their report will soon be issued and will be followed immediately by more realistic legislation.

The Council's conditions concerning electrically operated petrol service pumps came fully into operation on the 1st January, 1960. Compliance with these conditions has resulted in the modification or renewal of 114 pumps.

3 licences have been granted for the storage of 1,294 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

20. PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

Inspections were made at pleasure fairgrounds to ensure that there was compliance with the Council's byelaws and food hygiene regulations.

Buildings that are used for public entertainment were inspected during the year in order that the Hertfordshire County Council, as the licensing authority under the Home Counties (Music and Dancing) Licensing Act, 1926, could be satisfied with the toilet facilities.

The Town Hall was brought up to the standard approved by the Council by the provision of new toilets for both sexes conveniently accessible from the gallery.

21. NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The Public Health legislation has been materially strengthened since this Act came into force in November, 1960. Noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be dealt with as a statutory nuisance within the provisions of Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Complaints of noise from two factories have been investigated during the year. Most of the noise in Watford is undoubtedly caused by road, air and rail traffic.

22. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Nine premises in Watford are registered for upholstery work and one shop is licensed for the storage of rag flock.

It has not been necessary during the year to report any infringements of the Act to the Council.

23. HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

The public health inspectors are appointed to inspect and test appliances in accordance with this Act. No infringements were reported during the year.

24. OIL BURNERS (STANDARD) ACT, 1960

This Act was passed on the 29th July and came into force on the 1st January, 1961. Its purpose is to stop the sale of unsafe paraffin heaters, but until such time as the Secretary of State makes regulations it is quite ineffective.

25. FABRICS (MISDESCRIPTION) ACT, 1913

The Public Health Inspectors are appointed as authorised officers for the purpose of enforcing the Fabrics (Misdescription) Regulations, 1959, which prescribe a standard of non-inflammability for textile fabrics.

There is little demand for low flammability and flare free fabrics in Watford and it was necessary to submit only 3 samples to an approved testing house for examination; these complied with the appropriate British Standard.

26. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The public health inspectors are appointed officers under Section 4 of the Act and for its enforcement they work in co-operation with the local inspector of the R.S.P.C.A.

Fourteen persons are licensed to keep pet shops within the Borough and these have been conducted satisfactorily.

27. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The two rodent operatives are provided with a light van for the transport of poison baits etc. In 1959 infestation of some of the town's sewers, which had formerly

been both heavy and persistent was reduced almost to nil by the use of Warfarin. A ten per cent test of manholes on these sewers, together with the West Watford system (which has never shown evidence of infestation) showed all the sewers tested during 1960 to be free from rats. In future the sewers formerly infested will be tested annually and the remaining systems on a three-yearly cycle.

The Council continues to provide a free service for the destruction of rodents on domestic premises. Control of rats on Corporation allotments is now carried out by the respective allotment supervisors who are supplied with Warfarin for issue to allotment-holders whose plots (usually their compost-heaps) are harbouring rats. Table XV sets out the work carried out by the operatives in the destruction of rats and mice during the year.

The wasp nest destruction service instituted by the Council in 1959 was widely used, nests at 191 premises having been destroyed during the year. The standard charge is 10s.

APPENDIX

RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1960

TABLE I

<u>Houses -</u>			
Public Health Act (disrepair)	...	...	436
Housing Act	...	...	1, 504
Overcrowding	...	...	73
Rent Act	...	...	10
Movable dwellings	...	...	157
<u>Places of Work -</u>			
Power factories	...	...	355
Non-power factories	...	...	21
Building sites, etc.	...	...	11
Offices, workplaces	...	...	49
Shops	...	...	548
Outworkers	...	...	55
<u>Food -</u>			
Food Inspection	...	...	309
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2, 069
Food factories	...	...	58
Dairies	...	...	18
Ice-cream premises	...	...	73
Restaurants, canteens, public houses	...	...	267
Retail food shops	...	...	270
Public market	...	...	187
Mobile shops, stalls	...	...	41
Other food premises	...	...	95
Food (adulteration) samples	...	...	141
Food (bacteriological) samples	...	...	151
<u>Air -</u>			
Industrial smoke control	...	...	691
Smoke control areas	...	...	160

<u>Public Health Act -</u>	
Drainage	580
Refuse	178
Vermin, insect pests	122
Conveniences	19
Nuisances	218
Infectious disease	279
Schools	39
Swimming Pools	39
<u>Other Acts -</u>	
Fabrics (Misdescription) Act	8
Home Counties (music and dancing) Act	46
Pests Act	109
Pet Animals Act	34
Petroleum Acts	297
Rag Flock etc. Act	2
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Interviews	500
Attendance at Court	5
Lectures	4
Unclassified visits	463
	10,691

For comparison purposes the classifications of the inspections made during 1959 and 1960 are shown in the following table.

TABLE II

Purpose	Total Visits		Change	Percentage change + or -
	1959	1960		
Housing	2, 738	2, 180	- 558	- 20
Places of work	578	1, 039	+ 461	+ 80
Food	3, 616	3, 679	+ 63	+ 2
Clean Air	516	851	+ 335	+ 65
General	2, 467	2, 942	+ 475	+ 19
	9, 915	10, 691	+ 776	+ 8%

HOUSING

TABLE III

The Borough Engineer and Borough Treasurer have kindly supplied the following information: -

- (a) Number of new dwellings erected by the Council during 1960. 191.
 - (b) Number of new dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1960. 186.
 - (c) Total number of dwellings built by the Council since 1945. 3, 699.
 - (d) Total number of houses built by private enterprise since 1945. 1, 669.
 - (e) Number of Council houses occupied on the 31st December, 1960. 5, 484.
- PLUS 99 prefabricated bungalows.

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1960 RE HOUSING DEFECTS - TABLE IV

ACT	INFORMAL	STATUTORY
Housing Act, 1957	64	15
Public Health Act, 1936	81	24

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND OTHER UNFIT HOUSES

TABLE V

A. <u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED</u> IN CLEARANCE AREAS (1) Houses unfit for human habitation NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS (4) As a result of formal procedure under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957. (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health. B. <u>UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED</u> (8) Under Section 17(1), Housing Act 1957. (10) Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act 1957.	Houses Demolished	Displaced during Year	
		Persons	Families
	4	15	4
	2	-	-
	9	-	-
	<u>Number</u> 6	3	1
	1	2	1

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority.	77	
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	19	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957.	12	6

FOOD

TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE BOROUGH AT 1ST JANUARY, 1960

TABLE VI

Bakehouses	...	...	17
Bakery and Flour Confectionery Shops	...	...	31
Sweetshops	...	...	111
Butchers	...	...	59
Fishmongers and Fried Fish	...	...	26
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	55
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	165
Wholesale Grocers	...	...	3
Wholesale Greengrocers	...	...	3
Wholesale Meat Salesmen	...	...	5
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	73
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	...	65
School Canteens	...	...	36
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	57
Unclassified Food Factories	...	...	10
Public Market	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2

Food Premises Registered by the Council

1. Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	5
Ice Cream Dealers	...	...	190
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	...	60

2. Article 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies	2
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949-1954

The Council has granted two Dealers Licences to pasteurise milk and one Dealers Licence to sterilise milk at dairies within the Borough. Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were granted as follows:-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licences	Supplementary Licences	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	8	1	9
Pasteurised Milk	28	2	30
Sterilised Milk	22	1	23

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION DURING 1960

TABLE VII

HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL

(a) Rejected at Slaughterhouses

			<u>lbs.</u>
Beef (including 12 carcasses)	...	...	5,456
Lamb (including 3 carcasses)	...	...	214
Pork (including 63 carcasses)	...	...	5,761
Veal (including 6 carcasses)	...	...	203

Offal from Bovines -

				lbs.
183 Heads	...	...	...	5, 468
125 Tongues	...	...	...	627
707 Lungs	...	...	...	6, 947
89 Hearts	...	...	...	442
1, 189 Livers and 585 Part Livers	...	...	...	20, 317
24 Spleens	...	...	...	47
23 Skirts	...	...	...	45
12 Tails	...	...	...	23

Offal from Pigs

321 Plucks	...	...	...	1, 590
1, 110 Livers	...	...	...	2, 220
2, 216 Lungs	...	...	...	4, 332
377 Heads	...	...	...	4, 076
273 Other Organs	...	...	...	145

Offal from Sheep

15 Plucks	...	...	...	63
355 Livers	...	...	...	664
88 Lungs	...	...	...	162
3 Heads	...	...	...	13
2 Other Organs	...	...	...	2

Offal from Calves

6 Heads	...	...	...	29
6 Plucks	...	...	...	22
7 Other Organs	...	...	...	8

(b) Condemned in Retail and Manufacturing Premises

Pork	...	...	...	528
Beef	...	...	...	3, 155
Lamb	...	...	...	437

IMPORTED MEAT AND OFFAL

Beef	...	...	...	676
Mutton	...	...	...	132
Pork	...	...	...	174

OTHER FOODS INCLUDING CANNED GOODS

15, 401

79, 379

Total weight of food found to be unfit = 35 tons, 8 cwt, 2 qtrs. 27 lbs.

Of the above food 74. 2% comprised meat and offal rejected in the slaughter-houses.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN
WATFORD DURING 1960

TABLE VIII

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	4, 753	749	627	12, 129	32, 375
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	7	6	3	60
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1, 726	243	5	446	3, 390
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	36. 4	33. 4	1. 8	3. 7	10. 7
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	4	-	-	266
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0. 9	0. 5	-	-	0. 8

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases in which cysticercosis was found	144	9			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	144	9			
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	84	6			
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil			

For comparison purposes, the percentages of the animals found to be diseased during the past ten years are set out below:-

TABLE IX

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis					
1951	40.9	40.4	0.9	4.5	14.5
1952	41.3	43.0	1.2	6.7	15.4
1953	34.5	35.2	1.9	9.6	20.8
1954	34.4	29.6	3.2	6.9	14.6
1955	36.2	30.9	0.6	5.9	11.4
1956	36.3	31.0	0.4	6.6	9.1
1957	32.9	27.7	2.5	2.5	8.9

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
1958	29.4	33.9	2.0	9.5	9.7
1959	42.9	37.3	1.1	20.0	8.7
1960	36.4	33.4	1.8	3.7	10.7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis					
1951	8.0	29.3	0.3	-	3.0
1952	7.6	26.8	0.2	-	3.7
1953	8.1	22.8	0.1	-	3.7
1954	7.0	22.1	0.5	-	2.4
1955	6.9	19.3	-	-	1.3
1956	6.2	20.4	-	-	1.1
1957	4.5	14.6	-	-	1.2
1958	4.9	13.6	-	-	1.0
1959	3.0	8.1	0.3	-	0.9
1960	0.9	0.5	-	-	0.8

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF HEAT-TREATED MILK - TABLE X

Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Sterilised
46	23	23

All the samples were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES - TABLE XI

No. of Samples	Satisfactory - Grades 1 & 2	Unsatisfactory - Grades III & IV
37	37	-

CHEMICAL SAMPLES

The statutory minimum content for ice cream is 5 per cent fat and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids other than fat. Artificial sweeteners are prohibited.

Sample Number	Fat Content	Milk Solids
1	11.8	10.7
2	11.6	9.4
3	6.0	8.8
4	12.0	11.0
5	11.5	11.0
6	6.6	12.7

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE SALE OF UNSATISFACTORY FOODSTUFFS (SECTIONS 2 & 8, FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955) - TABLE XII

Section	Condition of Food	Result	Fine	Remarks
2	Unsound fish "bites"	Dismissed	-	Defendant successfully pleaded warranty
2	Mouldy pork pie	Conviction	£10	
8	Unfit meat	Conviction	£150	Proprietor and manager each fined £25 in respect of each of 3 offences.
2	Mouldy sausages	Conviction	£10	
2	Mouldy apple pie	Conviction	£10	
2	Sour Cornish pasty	Dismissed	-	The manufacturer was summoned, reliance being placed on a statement by the shop manager that the manufacturer had on the day of sale exchanged fresh goods for stale ones. The Defendant was awarded £10 costs.

Section	Condition of Food	Result	Fine	Remarks
2	(The same offence)	Conviction	£10	Summons against retailer, who pleaded guilty.
2	Mouldy sliced wrapped loaves	Conviction	£15	
2	Glass and dirt in rice	Conviction	£60	The same firm was twice convicted for offences under Section 2 in 1959.
2	Worm in processed peas	Conviction	£10	

FOOD POISONING 1960

TABLE XIII

Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organism responsible	Food Suspected
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium	Unknown
1	1	-	Staphylococci	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 2a)	? Cream eclairs
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 2a)	? Cream eclairs

Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organism responsible	Food Suspected
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 2a)	Cream cake
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type Var 1)	Unknown
1	22	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type Var 1)	Cream cakes
1	1	-	Unknown	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 1a Var 1.)	Unknown
1	4	-	Unknown	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 1a Var 1.)	Unknown
1	1	-	Unknown	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 2C)	Unknown
1	2	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 1a Var 1.)	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 1a Var 1.)	Unknown
1	1	-	Salmonella typhimurium	Unknown

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

TABLE XIV

Part I - Health Provision

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	31	21	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	348	355	12	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	11	11	-	-
Total:	390	387	13	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. F. I.	By H. M. F. I.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	1	-	1	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	2	1	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	23	27	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act	4	-	4	-	-
Total:	31	29	6	3	-

PART VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers as as required by Section 110(1)(c)
Wearing Apparel making, etc.	11
Curtains and furniture hangings	2
Artificial flowers	39
Brush Making	11
Carding, etc. of buttons etc.	12
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	37
Total:	112

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

REPORT FOR PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1960

TABLE XV

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (including business premises)	Total
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	70	23,360	3,500	26,930
2. Number of infested premises treated by Local Authority				
RATS:	5	361	50	416
MICE:	2	56	31	89
3. Number of block treatments carried out	Nil	105	3	108

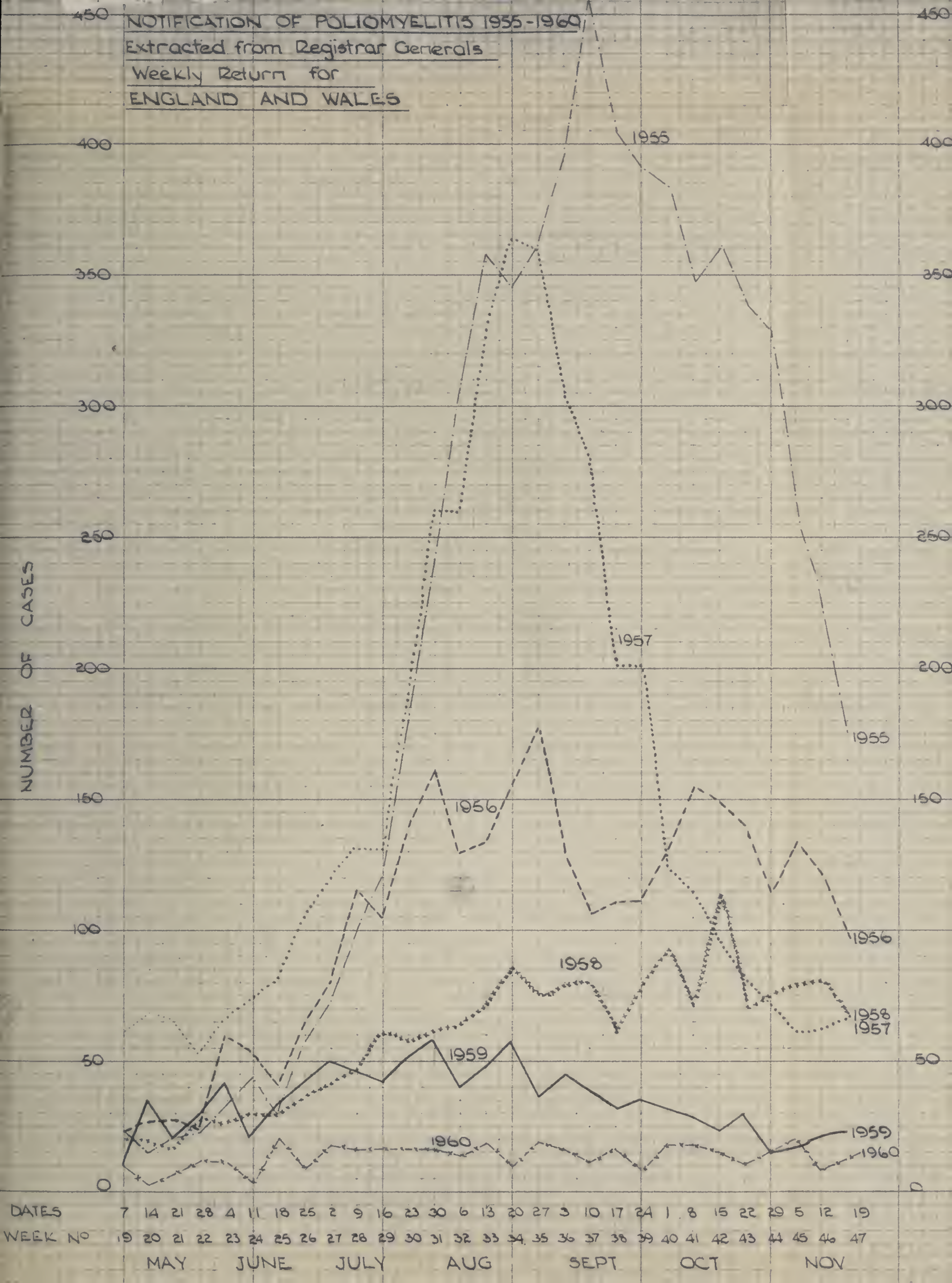
NOTE: (1) No agricultural premises in the Borough.

(2) No notices were served under Section 4 of the Act.

Printed by the Town Clerk's Dept.,
Town Hall,
Watford.

NOTIFICATION OF POLIOMYELITIS 1955-1960
 Extracted from Registrar Generals
 Weekly Return for
 ENGLAND AND WALES

NUMBER OF CASES



DATES	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19
WEEK NO	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
	MAY				JUNE				JULY				AUG				SEPT				OCT				NOV				

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